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Explorer Leaders Meeting

Tuesday 15th February 2011 at Lonsdale District Scout HQ, Moor St, Lancaster
7.30pm- 9.30pm

Present: Craig Dewar (DESC), David Clingain (DESA), Pierre Willingham (DESL), Pat Nelson (DESL), Rob Taylor (AESL - Lune Valley), Mel Turner (AESL - The Erics), Lynn McCann (ESL - The Saints), Jane Lyde (AESL - Silverhelme), Tom Armitstead (AESL - Slyne Bullseyes),

Apologies: Paul Geddes (ESL - Lune Valley), Anthea Manderson (AESL - The Erics), Andrew Manderson (AESL - The Erics), Hannah Detko (AESL - YL), Karren Ingleby (AESL - The Saints), John Hornby (AESL - Castleton), Andrew Scarr (AESL - The Erics), Robin Henderson (AESL - The Saints), Rosie Twambley (AESL - Castleton)

Leadership News

We have two new Leaders at Castleton Explorers. They are Rosie and John.

We also have a new leader at Silverhelme – Stuart Lockton

We also welcome Dianne Riley who becomes Unit Administrator for the Young Leaders Unit.

Since our last meeting Pierre has got married and recently returned from his honeymoon in Mexico. Congratulations.

Tom Armitstead also has two new leaders with him at Slyne. They are from Sea Scouts and are helping out to find out how Explorers is run.

Administrators Report

News from Finance & Support Group - We still have the Galbraith Trust Grant to spend.
Most of last years budget has now been spent, with more Leaders now been booked on their training.
Inventory for all District Explorer equipment to be made available for the next meeting.
A new leader is needed to join the group as the 'leader rep'

This year all Units Accounts need to be submitted to David Clingain by the 31st May 2011, as they need to be made available for the District AGM.

The next edition of the Explorer Newsletter will be out soon. More content is needed, if you have something you want including please contact David Clingain ASAP.

Now census is finished we can concentrate on Gift Aid and by the Next meeting we will know how we are going to tackle this.

Craig reported that all units had shown growth in their membership, that there were 127 Explorers, a growth of 30 Explorers and we have grown the number of leaders too. Congratulations to all. Craig thanked everyone for all their hard work, but stressed it doesn't stop here!

Past Events

Explorer Christmas Party – It was a really good night. The event was low on attendance; this is most likely due to the time of the year. Next year it's proposed we run this event in January.
Leaders Do – Excellent night, Everyone that attended this really enjoyed themselves.
Ice Skating – This was a brilliant Evening. We had 28 Explorers attend.

Unit Reports

The Erics - They have got numbers up since Christmas. Now running at about 15 Explorers a night. Dan has been on leave for personal reasons since Christmas and Anthea and Andrew are now off as they are expecting their first child.

Castleton - They now have two new Leaders. They are getting a good turn out each week. The Explorers are currently running the programme.

Lune Valley -	Getting a good turn out each week. They are sticking to the programme that they created at the beginning of the year.
The Saints -	Explorers are taking more responsibility with the programme. Currently struggling with the collecting of subs. This is due to some young people attending Explorers and Scouts.
The Bulls eyes -	They have grown in numbers with a good number turning up every week. Slyne are also sticking to the programme. They are also currently struggling with collecting subs.
Silverdale -	Just invested more Explorers with an average of 17 to 18 turning up each week. They need more Kneekers and name tapes.
Young Leaders -	We found a lot more Young Leaders at Census. Diane is going to do the Admin for the Young Leader Unit.

Action Point – David Clingain to support units with tacking issues around subs.
 - Craig Dewar to support the Saints with the linking issues.

Leader Training

Pierre Explained that for some activities you don't need a formal qualification, you simply need a scouting permit. For example, if you wanted to go walking you just need a walking permit through the scouting association. To get this you need to be assessed. You will also need to have kept a Log book of your previous experience. If you need a Log book template Pierre will e-mail you his. This is also the same for climbing, caving, kayaking, you need to keep a log book for all of them.

Action Point – Pierre to Email out a Template of a Log book on request.

Currently there is only Jane and Martin that needs to up-date their First Aid certificate.

There has already been a few people booked on to the Explorer Scout Leader Section of the training in November and also 5 people booked on to do their 5-9 this Sunday (20th Feb).

Up and Coming District Events

Explorers at Work-	This is coming up soon. Could all Leaders please try push this at their Unit meetings. This is a great chance for the Explorers to put something back into the campsite.
District Camp -	Going to be held on the weekend 15 th -17 th April at Great Tower Campsite. Forms had a few mistakes and will be re-issued soon.
Festival of Scouting -	This is going to be held on the 8 th May at Williamsons Park. The Explorers have had loads of input into the event. This will be a brilliant day and will hopefully attract some publicity.

Up and Coming County Events

County Camp -	The Information and booking forms are now on the County Web-site. The theme this year is Circus. This is always a good event. Please encourage as many Explorers to attend.
The MAC -	This is going to be held on the first weekend of April. Forms will be on-line soon. Any questions contact Pierre.
Development Workshop -	This is going to be held on 2 nd April. Help to show how to recruit both Leaders and Young People. If you would like to attend, contact Craig.

Up and Coming International Trips

There are several international trips coming up, Peru 2012, Canada 2012 Explorer Belt 2012. All the information for these trips is on the County Web-site.

The Ardennes Adventure has extended the deadline for the trip if there is still anybody interested in going on this trip.

Gilwell 24

This sounds like one of the most exciting events on offer for under £50 this year. This weekend is at Gilwell Campsite from the 8th-10th July 2011. There are going to be loads of events run for 24 hours straight. The cost is £45 plus transport. We need 10 Explorers to want to go to make the trip possible.

Awards Update

Pat is happy to come round the units and work with Explorers who have hit brick walls with their awards, or offer support to leaders. Pat and Craig are interviewing 5 people for Chief Scout Awards next week.

Pat reported that we had 3 leaders going on the D of E Expedition Training and the D of E Supervisor Training in the next two months.

Strategy 2011

This document was circulated. It is the sections development plan for the next 12 months and focuses on the following key areas:

- Programme
- Development
- Leadership Development
- Youth Involvement
- Finance, Management and Resources.

The document has been agreed by the Explorer Scout Finance and Support Group and by the leaders meeting (with a few amendments) This will now become the focus of our work in 2011 and will be reviewed at future meetings.

Linking Events

Following comments made at a recent Scout Leader meeting there was a discussion around this item. It was agreed that we needed to do more to link with local troops and improve our image. The strategy includes this work within it and support from the District Team is available to support linking events. It was acknowledged that Slyne Bullseyes and The Saints had held successful events. It was also pointed out that the leader who had raised the issue at the Scout Leader Meeting comes from a troop where there is a 100% retention rate and the Group Scout Leader has been in constant contact with the Young Leader Team and the Explorer Section.

Next Meeting – 15th March 2011 (Short Meeting followed by Drinks)